In the claims:

Please cancel claims 6 and 7 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 1, 5, 8, 9, 12, and 14 as follows:

SUB B1 A2

-- 1. (Once Amended) A method for predicting patient responsiveness to a 5-HT3 receptor antagonist, said method comprising:

(a) determining a genotype of the promoter region of said patient's serotonin transporter protein gene, said genotype selected from the group consisting of a long variant/long variant, short variant/long variant, and short variant/short variant; and

(b) correlating said long variant/long variant genotype with greater patient responsiveness to said 5-HT3 receptor antagonist.

SUB B1 A3

5. (Once Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said genotyping step comprises:

(a) amplifying a nucleic acid comprising the promoter region of said patient's serotonin transporter protein gene to obtain an amplified product; and

(b) determining the size of said amplified product to identify the long variant/long variant, short variant/long variant, or short variant/short variant genotype of the promoter region of said patient's serotonin transporter protein gene.

SUB B1 A4

8. (Once Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said greater patient responsiveness is determined by measuring a patient parameter.

9. (Once Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said greater patient responsiveness is determined by comparing a measured patient parameter with a pre-determined clinically significant threshold.

A5 SUB B1

12. (Once Amended) A method for treating a patient with diarrhea-predominant irritable bowel syndrome comprising:

(a) obtaining a biological sample from said patient;

SUB B1 cont. A5 cont.

(b) genotyping the promoter region of the serotonin transporter protein gene in said biological sample obtained from said patient; and

(c) administering to said patient an effective amount of a 5-HT3 receptor antagonist if said patient has a long variant/long variant genotype in the promoter region of the serotonin transporter protein gene.

SUB B1 A6

14. (Once Amended) A method for identifying a patient population for inclusion in a 5-HT3 receptor antagonist clinical trial comprising:

(a) obtaining a biological sample from a potential participant in said clinical trial;

(b) genotyping the promoter region of the serotonin transporter protein gene contained within said biological sample; and

(c) identifying said potential participant as suitable for inclusion in said patient population based on the presence of a long variant/long variant genotype in the promoter region of said potential participant's serotonin transporter protein gene. --